

Sustainability is...



[www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)

Sustainable Las Vegas 2007

*Sustainable Las Vegas*  
**2007**





"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

- Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

# City Council Introduction 2007

This publication is dedicated to the citizens of Las Vegas, to the 3,000 men and women who serve them at the city of Las Vegas and to future generations who will make Las Vegas their home. Together we are working to create a world-class city of today, as well as continuing to maintain that lofty status well into the future. It is this essence of promoting our greatness into the years ahead that is at the heart of a concept known as sustainability.

Throughout this publication we have listed what the city is doing to make sure all will be able to experience an even better quality of life than they do today. Those of us inside City Hall are more than aware of these efforts and in fact they are some of the city's top initiatives. We take great pride in the strides we are making.

Now those outside City Hall are beginning to take notice of the city's wonderful efforts. For example, the city has received many key accolades, including recently being named "The American City of the Year" at the World Leadership Awards in London, England. Our commitment to sustainability is a key reason the city of Las Vegas captured this prestigious honor, as well as why the city placed first in the Transportation Category for our Alternative Fuels Program and first in the Leisure and Sport Category for the Centennial Hills Master-Planned Campus.

To those in the know, Las Vegas has thrown off its traditional image of being about entertainment and gaming alone. We are now also recognized internationally as an innovative leader in sustainability. A few years ago such an undertaking seemed virtually unimaginable in a city often associated with Elvis impersonators and showgirls.

As members of the City Council, it is our job to create the vision and set the goals for our organization, but we count on city staff to bring these dreams to life each day. Together our focus is to leave a legacy of a world-class city, today and tomorrow. This publication will help you learn more about how you can be a part of and participate in this effort with us. ●


# The Las Vegas City Council



Mayor Oscar B. Goodman



Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese



Councilman Larry Brown



Councilman Steve Wolfson



Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian



Councilman Steven D. Ross



Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow


# City Manager's Introduction

Few could argue that Las Vegas is not world famous. However, are we world class? That is the question city of Las Vegas staff is working to answer each day. To us, it is not enough to be known as a great place for gaming and entertainment. We want to make sure Las Vegas is a wonderful place to live, work and play; now and into the future.

As city staff we are working under the City Council's strategic policy guidance on key initiatives we believe will help make sure our quality of life here is as famous as our entertainment. They include enhanced performance, wellness, diversity and sustainability. The last, sustainability, speaks directly to making sure the future of our city is bright based on good decisions we make today. Certainly good stewardship of the environment is a key aspect of sustainability, but we believe there is more. This publication focuses primarily on what the city is doing internally and externally to protect our sustainable future—as well as what you can do to be a part of the effort.

These are wonderful times to live and work in Las Vegas. Still, we have our challenges. Keeping pace with our phenomenal growth continues to test us each day. We want to make sure that in the haste to keep up with the growth that we not sacrifice the future. This is at the heart of what sustainability is all about.

City of Las Vegas employees are the “best of the best” in so many ways. City staff wins awards for all levels of government service. But what you may not know is that Las Vegas is also emerging as a leader in sustainability and the environment. From pioneering innovative programs to winning worldwide recognition, the employees of the city are demonstrating strong leadership in these areas. This publication will tell you more about all those efforts. In fact, the city has done so much in these areas it was impractical to try to mention everything. What is compiled is an impressive listing of the city's top programs in conservation and sustainability.

I am proud to serve as city manager for such an innovative organization. I am confident the citizens of Las Vegas will also be proud to know of our efforts to improve our current quality of life, while at the same time protecting our future. In doing so we are taking our place among progressive cities throughout the world that seek to ensure the best for their citizens today and tomorrow. 



# City Manager's Office



**DOUGLAS A. SELBY**  
**CITY MANAGER**



**STEVEN P. HOUCHENS**  
**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**




**ELIZABETH "BETSY" N. FRETWELL**  
**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**



**ORLANDO L. SANCHEZ**  
**DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**



A night heron stands in a shallow marsh, surrounded by tall, green reeds. The bird has a grey body, a black cap, and a red eye. Its reflection is visible in the water. A bright yellow circle with a dotted border is overlaid on the image, containing the text "What is Sustainability?".

What is  
Sustainability?

# What is Sustainability?

**“Sustainability” is a term that is becoming more and more common. We hear it on the news, see it on television and in movies and even hear about it from political figures. But what does it really mean?**

When the city of Las Vegas first began its sustainability initiative, the city’s television station, KCLV-TV, took to the streets of Las Vegas to see if the average citizen knew what it meant. The answers ran the gamut. Some simply didn’t know the term. Others had more creative definitions such as “it means whether or not you can sustain standing for a long time.” Others believed it referred to preserving nature and the environment. It became clear from this quick research that most individuals did not have a clear understanding of what the term means.

Further research for insight into the meaning of sustainability can prove to be confusing as well. There seems to be more debate than consensus as various environmental groups focus on different aspects. For some, sustainability is about being “green or environmentally sensitive” while for others the focus is on the social aspects of our lives. With terms such as “biosphere” and “ecological balance” included in the definitions, these can be a bit complex.

For the city of Las Vegas, the definition is simple – sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. It covers more than being green or environmental. It permeates into every aspect of our lives including economic development, energy consumption and social organization.

In short, it is a way to ensure that current and future generations will both enjoy the quality of life we have all worked so hard to achieve. The city of Las Vegas does this by incorporating sustainability principles into everything it does. From legislation and buildings to daily operations, everything is approached in a way to properly balance consideration of the environment, economic conditions and social issues to ensure an outstanding quality of life for generations to come. ●





Hoover Dam







What Does  
Sustainability  
Mean For You?


Lewis Street Pedestrian Corridor



# What Does Sustainability Mean For You?

## Once one decides on a definition of sustainability, the question then arises – What does it mean for me?

- It means that your natural resources such as water, energy and clean air will be protected.
- It means that you will have effective transportation options that help reduce carbon emissions.
- It means that you will have open space throughout the community.
- It means that the buildings where you work, live and play will be energy and water efficient, and built with recycled products.
- It means that you will have greater access to programs that help you use water, energy and other natural resources more efficiently.
- It means that you will have healthy lifestyle options in the form of parks, activities and events.
- It means that your children and grandchildren will enjoy an even better quality of life than you.

It means all of these things and much more. On the following pages, you'll find more information about what sustainability means and what the city of Las Vegas is doing to further sustain your community. While it is only a snapshot of what is taking place, it provides some insight into what your government and its community partners are doing to ensure that Las Vegas continues to be a place that millions of people choose to live, work and play. 



City Recycling Program



A decorative floral pattern in shades of green and yellow, featuring stylized leaves and flowers, runs vertically along the left side of the page.

### Sustainability Tip:

Lower your thermostat slightly in the winter, and raise it slightly in the summer. About 47 percent of the average household's annual energy bills stem from heating and cooling, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.



Sustainability is...  
Our Natural  
Resources

*Alternative Fuel Vehicle*

# Sustainability is ... Our Natural Resources

**When people hear the term “sustainability,” they usually think of protecting natural resources such as water and energy. And while protecting our natural resources is only one part of the sustainability equation, it is key.**

Whether it's providing alternative transportation to protect our air quality or using artificial turf in city parks to conserve water, the city of Las Vegas is making sure these precious resources will be available for future generations.

The city's Alternative Fuels Program is one of the first of its kind and has been recognized worldwide for its innovative approach to fleet services. The program started nearly 15 years ago, when Las Vegas became the fifth city in the nation to become part of the Clean Cities Program.

This set the stage for an Alternative Fuels Program that has continued to expand, providing even more benefits to our air quality and community. The city now has 90 percent of its nearly 1,350 vehicles operating on alternative fuels such as hydrogen, compressed natural gas, biodiesel and hybrid technology. In addition, the city has 500 pieces of small equipment, such as lawn mowers, that utilize alternative fuels. Just this past year, the city put another 35 Ford Escape Hybrid vehicles into service, which brings the total to 85 hybrids.

In addition, some new alternatively-fueled buses have been added to the city's fleet. The city partnered with Ford Motor Company to bring two state-of-the-art, hydrogen-fueled buses to southern Nevada to serve the public along downtown bus routes as part of the City Ride Program. Additionally, a federal earmark in the amount of \$1 million was awarded to the city for three 40-foot compressed natural gas buses. These buses should be delivered to the city in early 2008.

# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Natural Resources

This innovative approach to sustainability has received worldwide attention. The program was recently honored by being named as the winner in the Transportation Category at the 2007 World Leadership Awards in London, England, a competition that includes entries from throughout the world and celebrates the very best in modern city leadership. The city competed in the finals against the cities of Ahmedabad, India, and Bremen, Germany.

The city's Alternative Fuels Program was also recognized this year by SustainLane.com, by being named the number one city in the nation for the highest percentage of fleet vehicles and equipment operating on an alternative fuel.

Proof of the program's benefits is in the numbers. This past year, the city estimates it saved nearly \$42,000 a year in fuel costs, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 12,000 tons.

The city also continues to conserve one of the valley's most precious resources—water. While the city regularly uses desert efficient landscaping whenever possible, we have continued to explore the use of artificial turf for sports fields such as those used for soccer. Recent turf conversions at two local parks, Rafael Rivera Park and Mike Morgan Park, are estimated to have saved the city a total of 10.7 million gallons of water per year. Because of this conversion, the city has received a rebate for converting from grass to artificial turf from the Southern Nevada Water Authority in the amount of \$107,610, which helped to fund the cost of the project.

Another way the city conserves water is by treating wastewater to be reused in the community. This reuse water is for golf course and park irrigation. The Bonanza-Mojave resource center on Mojave Road provides up to one million gallons of safe irrigation water to nearby Desert Pines Golf Course each day. The city also operates the Durango Hills Water Resource Center that provides up to 10 million gallons of reuse water a day to golf courses and parks in the northwest area of the city. These two efforts alone provide 11 million gallons a day of reuse water, lowering the demand for drinking water in our community.

The city has been aggressively searching for energy alternatives to reduce the demands put on our power grid. Two ways that the city has been doing this are by utilizing solar energy and energy efficient traffic signals. All of the traditional incandescent bulbs in traffic signals have





Mike Morgan Park



Majestic Park



**Hydrogen-Fueled Bus**



**Solar Powered  
School Flasher**

**Biodiesel-Fueled Truck**




# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Natural Resources

been replaced with new light emitting diodes, or LEDs. LED technology translates to an annual energy savings of approximately \$158,000. They also have a seven-year life expectancy, far surpassing the 12-month life span of the traditional traffic signal light bulbs.

Solar powered flasher systems have been installed in 30 school flasher locations. Conversion of 20 additional units is in the planning stages. By doing this, the city saves money in construction costs and energy use.

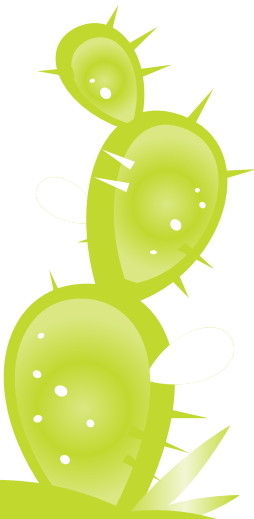
City staff also helps to conserve energy use by not starting high-power equipment during peak hours to reduce the load on the power grid. Staff has also replaced older equipment with Energy Star rated equipment that is more efficient and saves electricity, and they have instituted predictive maintenance methods that catch issues before they cause failures in equipment. This type of analysis extends the life of the equipment and prolongs resources for future use. 

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### Sustainability Tip:

**Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway or sidewalk and save 80 gallons of water every time.**

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*Springs Preserve*

Sustainability is...  
Our Future





**Whether it is ensuring that buildings old and new are energy efficient, planning effective mass transit or making sure that neighborhood growth is accomplished through intelligent design that takes the environment into account, the city of Las Vegas is looking toward the future. While working and living efficiently is something we need to do now, sustainability fails if plans to meet the needs of future generations are not considered.**

Smart Growth Neighborhoods like the recently-approved master-planned Kyle Canyon Gateway development are joint efforts where developers and city staff bring together ideas to ensure that it is not only a great place to live when it is complete, but that it can be a development that stands the test of time. This 1,712-acre community will preserve natural resources and incorporate them into the project through trail and pedestrian access. In addition all homes in the development will include fire sprinkler systems providing an extra safety feature for residents while also resulting in the ability to have narrower and quieter streets, since the need to accommodate large fire trucks will be diminished.

Smart Growth goes beyond just larger neighborhoods and communities and permeates to homes and commercial buildings that are within them. The city has created a Green Building Program in conjunction with the Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership that certifies residential buildings and builders if, for example, they are energy efficient at a level 15 percent greater than required by city code and have water efficiency standards that meet or exceed the Southern Nevada Water Authority's Water Smart Home program standards. The city has already begun to see the commitment to the program from local developers. Pulte Homes recently constructed the first "green-built" homes in a new northwest Las Vegas



ACE Rapid Transit System



Kyle Canyon



Molasky Corporate Center



## Springs Preserve





### **Sustainability Tip:**

**Rent, don't buy, movies. One hundred thousand DVDs and CDs are thrown away each month. So you won't be contributing to the trash pile.**

neighborhood. In addition, R/S Development has also signed up to participate in the Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership Program.

As part of this program, the city has committed to build new city facilities to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED® Silver standards. The city now commits 25 percent of any incremental annual increase in power, natural gas and solid waste franchise fees, not to exceed \$2.5 million per year, for its sustainability initiative. The city is also enabling the development of green building by adopting the latest state-of-the-art codes, such as the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code, for conserving energy in new building construction and remodeling.

Las Vegas is beginning to see more and more green construction and much of it is in the downtown Las Vegas area. The city's Union Park project was recently accepted to the LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot program developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. Union Park is the 61-acre, mixed-use master-planned urban center currently under development on land owned by the city of Las Vegas in the heart of downtown. Union Park is the only project in Las Vegas participating in this national pilot program where all the new buildings will meet LEED standards. Several buildings planned on and around Union Park are also working on LEED certification including the World Jewelry Center and the Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

A ratty old pair of blue jeans wouldn't seem to have many uses, but at the new Molasky Center well-used denim clothing has found a second life as insulation. The 16-story, 285,000-square-foot office complex is a model of energy and water efficiency and epitomizes "green building." Along with blue jean wall insulation, the complex utilizes energy efficient glass, electricity-producing photovoltaic panels, reclaimed water for landscaping and cleaner under the floor air circulation. The building has LEED Gold certification.

Another example of green construction within the city melds our sustainable future with our history. The birthplace of Las Vegas, the Springs Preserve, is a 180-acre cultural attraction that celebrates the history of Las Vegas while providing a vision of sustainability through its Desert Living Center. The center houses the sustainability gallery, design lab and gardens of

# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Future

the world among other exhibits. The center is designed to provide a forum where visitors can learn practical means of protecting valuable environmental resources without compromising their quality of life. The Springs Preserve is the first attraction in the country to achieve LEED Platinum certification, and solar panels generate 70 percent of its power needs. The preserve is home to more than 250 species of wildlife.

Another way that the city is going green and also making use of its past is through the Historic Properties Preservation Plan Element. This plan calls for the restoration and reuse of historic buildings to reduce the need for raw and new materials that would be needed for new buildings. An example of this is the continuing work at the POST Modern. This former federal courthouse and post office is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Instead of simply leaving the building as a historic reminder of the past the city is working to carefully restore the building so that it can house a museum highlighting Las Vegas history from the 1930s through the 1960s.

Our future livelihood is also dependent upon efficient transportation. Getting people where they want to go as quickly and conveniently as possible while lessening the numbers of vehicles on crowded roadways is a challenge common to many major cities. In Las Vegas the vision of the city and Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada includes the new ACE Transit system, which will give the city the benefits of a light rail service with the flexibility of using existing roadways. The system will use several light rail features including level platform boarding, off-board fare collection and a dedicated transit lane eliminating the need for transports to compete with other vehicle traffic. The beginnings of the system are being built now in the form of the ACE Downtown Connector that will run along the increasingly busy Grand Central Parkway Corridor before making its way to the Sahara Avenue Monorail Station. ●

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### **Sustainability Tip:**

**Use a mode of alternative transportation such as transit, biking or carpooling.**

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### **Sustainability Tip:**

**Donate your cell phone to a charity or sell it to a third-party recycler. Less than one percent of all cell phones are currently recycled and there are 500 million used cell phones not being used in the U.S. alone.**





Sustainability is...  
Our Health  
& Recreation

*Centennial Hills Recreation Center*

# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Health and Recreation

**A healthier community lends itself to a more sustainable community. The city of Las Vegas has made the development of open space and healthy lifestyle options for its citizens one of its key initiatives.**

In the past year, the city has continued to expand the amount of open space in the community. In fact, there are now three acres of park per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the goal of 2.5 acres that the city set several years ago. One huge addition to the city is the 680-acre historic Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs. In the summer of 2007, the city officially took over the northwest park, which offers fishing, horseback riding and historic structures. The park came to the city via state legislation and as part of the transfer, a master plan was required. This plan outlines the development of the park, which will be implemented over many years. Another addition for our health and recreation is the 44-acre Majestic Park, a softball park near Alexander Road and Hualapai Way.

A key example of sustainability in our community is the Centennial Hills Master-Planned Campus. Instead of developing a standalone community center and park, the city partnered with other entities to serve the community with a single, master-planned development. This past summer, the Centennial Hills Recreation Center and Active Adult Center opened as the largest community center in the state. In addition to providing healthy activity options for all ages, the center is the first LEED certified city building. LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a green building rating system that is the nationally-accepted benchmark for environmental design. The center achieved a silver LEED certification, which means that it has a high number of sustainable features and is designed to use 30 to 50 percent less energy.

The complex will also feature an outdoor amphitheatre, which the city broke ground on



Mayor's Walk



Tree City U.S.A.



Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs







Centennial Hills Gym



Healthy Activities



Tree Planting

# Sustainability is ...

## Our Health and Recreation


earlier this year. In addition to the multigenerational community center and pools, the campus includes a fire station, 53-acre regional park and will include a 46,000 square-foot library and additional space for a future Metropolitan Police Department substation.

The unique qualities of this project have garnered worldwide attention. The campus recently won a World Leadership Award in the Leisure and Sport category. The international competition celebrates the best in modern city leadership. The campus beat out projects in Lagos, Nigeria, and Lima, Peru.

One important part of our open spaces is trees, which have a number of benefits. Trees can provide shade helping to reduce cooling costs, block winds helping to lower heating costs, remove carbon dioxide from the air and provide food for wildlife, among other things.

In 2007, the city of Las Vegas celebrated 15 years as a Tree City USA. The program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, recognizes cities for their care of community trees.

In addition to regular planting events each year, the city furthered its commitment to planting trees by directing staff to create a city tree program. This program will increase the number of more water efficient trees in the community, provide assistance to businesses and residents to plant more trees and educate the public as to the benefits of trees.

In addition to open space, one of the ways the city ensures that our community continues to be healthy and happy is through a multitude of activities and events. The Mayor's Healthy Lifestyle Initiative was created as a way to encourage healthy lifestyle options by providing information on diet and exercise. Events such as the Freedom Walk and classes at local parks and recreation centers offer numerous opportunities for our residents to get smart about diet and nutrition, get up and move and get out to take advantage of the many open spaces in the community. More information, including upcoming events can be found at [www.getthehealthylasvegas.org](http://www.getthehealthylasvegas.org). 



### **Sustainability Tip:**

**Download music instead of purchasing it at the store. Each month, more than 45 tons of CDs become obsolete, outdated or unwanted and end up in landfills.**





Sustainability is...  
Our Community  
Partners

*Desert Landscaping*



# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Community Partners

**In the world of sustainability, the old saying “it takes a village” couldn’t be more appropriate. It takes everyone to protect the needs of today and tomorrow. Fortunately, the Las Vegas valley is filled with organizations that help us achieve the goal of sustainability.**

In addition to the many green buildings that are taking shape throughout the city such as the Union Park development, the Molasky Corporate Center, the World Jewelry Center, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts and the city’s own Centennial Hills Community Center, many organizations are offering programs to help residents become more environmentally aware.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority offers programs that provide rebates for converting turf to desert landscaping as well as rebates for things such as pool covers, rain sensors and smart irrigation controllers and coupons for water smart car washes. Another local utility, Nevada Power Company, offers a number of incentives and programs that encourage the use of solar power, high efficiency central air conditioners and energy efficient pool pumps. The company also helps customers reduce electricity demand and support the recycling of energy inefficient refrigerators. Southwest Gas Corporation also offers programs to help with weatherization so natural resources are not lost by adding weather stripping and insulation to homes. A valleywide recycling program through Republic Services helps valley residents recycle a variety of residential and business items.

The city of Las Vegas encourages and celebrates our community partners by recognizing them through avenues such as the Mayor’s Urban Design Awards, which honor sustainable community design. First presented at the 2007 State of the City Address, these awards were presented in categories for public art, public places and buildings and their environs.

# Sustainability is . . .

## Our Community Partners

While many local organizations and companies have joined in the crusade for a more sustainable community, our biggest and most important community partner is YOU. Small changes in your everyday life can lead to tremendous changes in our community.

To determine how to be more green, you must first determine how your daily activities currently affect our climate. The easiest way to do this is by visiting the Internet to take advantage of one of the many carbon footprint calculators. One example is the calculator provided by the Nature Conservancy that can be found at [www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator](http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/calculator). This online application will help you calculate how many tons of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases your household generates per year, based on your daily choices in travel, recycling and food. By reducing the “carbon footprint,” we save energy resources and reduce harmful emissions into the air.

You don't even have to visit one of these online calculators to realize the difference you could have on our community by making some very small changes in your life.

- By reducing your driving by 50 miles a week, you can reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by more than one ton.
- By turning down your thermostat by 10 degrees each night in winter, you could save 250 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- By turning up your central air conditioner's thermostat by two degrees in the summer, you could save 100 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- By purchasing a car that averages 10 miles per gallon more than your present vehicle, you could save 7,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- By recycling half of your potentially recyclable materials, you could save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.
- By replacing one incandescent bulb with a compact fluorescent one, you could save 100 pounds of carbon over the life of the bulb.

# Sustainability is ...

## Our Community Partners

- By recycling 20 glass bottles, you can save two pounds of carbon.
- By ensuring that your automobile tires are fully inflated, you can save 300 pounds of carbon dioxide for every 10,000 miles you drive.

### Sources:

Nature Conservancy  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Energy Star

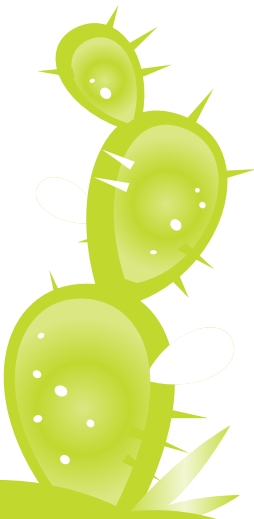
This publication is full of tips to help you become more sustainable. In addition to these tips, you will find a list of Web site resources at the end of the report. While this is no way a complete listing, this will provide you with a wealth of information to get you started on your quest for sustainability. ●

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### Sustainability Tip:

**If your furnace, air conditioner or other major appliances are more than 10 years old, it may make sense to replace them with newer, more efficient models. Buying newer, Energy Star-certified appliances can save you at least \$30 a year.**

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Sustainability is...  
Your  
Government

This computer  
is available  
for public use  
to view  
the  
City of Las Vegas  
internet web site.



*Online Services*



**Government has an obligation to set an example when it comes to protecting our resources and the city of Las Vegas is leading the charge when it comes to sustainability. From recycling paper to saving electricity within city facilities, the city is raising the bar when it comes to green efforts within the Las Vegas valley.**

The effort starts at the top with applicable policies and procedures. In July 2007 the city adopted a Sustain Las Vegas Policy, which sets out objectives for employees, including the reduction of energy and water consumption. The city also approved the use of small wind energy systems in certain residential zoning districts allowing homeowners to reduce their dependency on conventional, non-renewable utility power. The city's commitment to the issue of sustainability can further be evidenced by a recent workshop held by the City Council and Planning Commission. The workshop featured presentations on a number of sustainability topics and resulted in an eight-step action plan on how best to incorporate sustainability in the business practices of the city.

As a business with more than 3,000 employees, it is not surprising that the city could generate a large amount of paperwork, but city staff is committed to reducing the amount of paper it uses. Employees double-side copies when appropriate and refrain from printing out e-mails unless absolutely necessary. Many departments have also changed the way citizen notifications are produced to help reduce paper use and costs. As one example, the Planning and Development Department switched from letters and envelopes for citizen notification to postcards saving approximately \$24,000 per year in material, labor and equipment costs.

# Sustainability is . . . . Your government

The city strives to recycle not only all the paper it can, but other materials as well. The first two quarters of 2007 saw a 38 percent increase in the amount of recycling bins in city facilities and during the past year, 92 65-gallon gray recycle bins have been placed in and around city facilities, an increase of more than 75 percent from past years. These bins allow for the disposition of paper, plastic, aluminum and other items and are located in lunch rooms, conference rooms and common areas throughout city facilities. In addition, the city works with Opportunity Village, a local nonprofit organization, to recycle paper that the city shreds. The city recycles more than the predictable paper and aluminum. It also recycles batteries, used oil, ink cartridges, antifreeze, scrap metal, including light poles and street signs, and trees and shrubs for mulch.

Throughout City Hall, you can see other conservation measures in place. Technology is one area where the city has streamlined operations and made certain decisions related to equipment to preserve resources. Computer screens have been replaced by newer, more efficient flat screen models. Not only are these less expensive to operate, but they also use considerably less watts of electricity. This conversion has resulted in an estimated reduction in power consumption of 2.8 million watts per day.

In addition, more and more technology services are being handled remotely. For example, if an employee at an offsite location has a computer problem, a technician no longer drives to the site. They remotely access the person's computer to assess the situation and remedy the problem, saving time and reducing emissions. For citizens, the city's Web site continues to offer more and more services online allowing citizens to forgo a trip to City Hall, further protecting air quality.

Also, lighting fixtures have been retrofitted throughout City Hall and other city facilities to include light sensors that will automatically turn off when motion is no longer sensed in a room. These lighting retrofits in various facilities have saved an estimated 150,000 kilowatt hours per year, equating to more than \$18,000 in yearly savings.

All of these efforts are not done solely under the direction of city management. Many employees and departments have personally gotten onboard with the city's sustainability initia-

# Sustainability is . . . . Your government

tive. For example the Planning and Development Department created a program called CELEBRATE, which stands for City Employees Lowering Energy Costs By Recycling And Tracking Efficiency. Several departments have formed their own CELEBRATE programs that challenge city employees to become more sustainable by reducing consumption, conserving resources and increasing efficiency. Some employees, such as those from the city's Office of Architectural Services, have gone as far as getting "green" certifications from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED program, a green building rating system that is the nationally-accepted benchmark for environmental design.

Knowing that it cannot preserve our resources alone, the city ensures that citizens are educated on sustainability issues and how they can join in the efforts. The city is currently developing a Web site devoted to sustainability with information on resources and how the public can get involved. The city's television station, KCLV-TV, has also helped to educate viewers on sustainability initiatives. A dedicated episode of the show "City Scene" featured city staff and local leaders discussing trends in sustainability. In addition, the station has featured nationally-produced Public Service Announcements with conservation information from organizations such as Energy Star and the Environmental Defense. The idea is to lead by example. ●●●

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## **Sustainability Tip:**

**Donate clothing and household goods to the environmental nonprofit of your choice.**

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# Web Site Resources

Below you will find a list of Web site resources that will provide you with further information on what you can do to help make our community a sustainable one.

## AIR QUALITY

Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition  
[www.lasvegascleancities.org/about.html](http://www.lasvegascleancities.org/about.html)

Clark County Department of Air Quality  
[www.accessclarkcounty.com/daqem/index.html](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/daqem/index.html)

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection –  
Bureau of Air Pollution Control  
[www.ndep.nv.gov](http://www.ndep.nv.gov)

Las Vegas Air Quality Conditions and Forecasts  
[www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.showlocal&CityID=120](http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.showlocal&CityID=120)

Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 –  
Air Programs  
[www.epa.gov/region09/air/actions/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/actions/index.html)

## ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Regional Transportation Commission of  
Southern Nevada  
[www.rtcsonthernnevada.com](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com)

Citizens Area Transit  
[www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/cat/index.htm](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/cat/index.htm)

Club Ride Commuter Services  
[www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/tdm/clubride.htm](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/tdm/clubride.htm)

Freeway and Arterial System of Transport (FAST)  
System / Traffic Cameras  
[www.nvfast.org](http://www.nvfast.org)

Bicycling - Laws, Safety and Maps  
[www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/bicyclemap/bikemap.htm](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/bicyclemap/bikemap.htm)

U.S. Department of Energy – Advanced Fuels &  
Advanced Vehicle Data Center  
[www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/hybrid\\_electric.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/vehicles/hybrid_electric.html)

U.S. Department of Energy – Hybrid Vehicle Information  
[www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/hybrid\\_news.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/hybrid_news.shtml)

## ENERGY

U.S. Dept. of Energy  
[www.energy.gov/](http://www.energy.gov/)

U.S. Department of Energy – Energy Audit  
[www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your\\_home/energy\\_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11160](http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11160)

U.S. Department of Energy – Weatherization Audit  
[www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/wxtech\\_neat.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/wxtech_neat.html)

Alliance to Save Energy  
[www.ase.org/](http://www.ase.org/)

Nevada Power – Home Energy Analysis  
[www.nevadapower.com/conservation/home/energy\\_audit.cfm](http://www.nevadapower.com/conservation/home/energy_audit.cfm)

Nevada Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation  
Task Force  
[www.nevadarenewables.org/?section=featured&id=80](http://www.nevadarenewables.org/?section=featured&id=80)

Southwest Gas  
[www.swgas.com](http://www.swgas.com)

## GREEN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Green Building Initiative  
[www.thegbi.org/home.asp](http://www.thegbi.org/home.asp)

Southern Nevada Green Building Partnership  
[www.nvgreenbuilder.com/](http://www.nvgreenbuilder.com/)

U.S. Green Building Council  
[www.usgbc.org/](http://www.usgbc.org/)

LEED Certified Buildings  
[www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1452](http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1452)



# Web Site Resources

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –  
Green Buildings  
[www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/)

Energy Star  
[www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home.index](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home.index)

Nevada Homeowner Incentives for  
Renewables and Efficiency  
[www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/maphomeowner.cfm?State=Nv&CurrentPagelId=1&RE=1&EE=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/library/includes/maphomeowner.cfm?State=Nv&CurrentPagelId=1&RE=1&EE=1)

Molasky Corporate Center  
[www.molaskycenter.com](http://www.molaskycenter.com)

Union Park  
[www.unionparkvegas.com](http://www.unionparkvegas.com)

Las Vegas Springs Preserve  
[www.springspreserve.org](http://www.springspreserve.org)

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLE OPTIONS

Mayor's Healthy Lifestyle Initiative  
[www.gethealthylasvegas.org](http://www.gethealthylasvegas.org)

City of Las Vegas Parks, Pools and  
Recreational Centers  
[www.lasvegasnevada.gov/parks](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/parks)

City of Las Vegas Interactive Park Finder  
[www.lasvegasnevada.gov/parkfinder](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/parkfinder)

## RECYCLING

Republic Services  
[www.republicservicesvegas.com](http://www.republicservicesvegas.com)

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
[www.nevadarecycles.gov](http://www.nevadarecycles.gov)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –  
Recycling Information  
[www.epa.gov/msw/recycle.htm](http://www.epa.gov/msw/recycle.htm)

## SUSTAINABILITY

City of Las Vegas Sustainability Web site  
[www.lasvegasnevada.gov/sustainlasvegas](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/sustainlasvegas)

Smart Growth  
[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)

U.S. Conference of Mayors – Climate Protection Center  
[www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/](http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/)

Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change  
[www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

Environmental Protection Agency – Climate Change  
[www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange)

Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition  
[www.snrpc.org](http://www.snrpc.org)

Desert Research Institute  
[www.dri.edu](http://www.dri.edu)

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
[www.unce.unr.edu](http://www.unce.unr.edu)

International Council for Local  
Environmental Initiatives  
[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

Sustain Lane - Government  
[www.Sustainlane.us](http://www.Sustainlane.us)

## TREES

Nevada Division of Forestry - Best Management  
Practices Guide for Urban Trees in Southern Nevada  
[www.forestry.nv.gov/bmp](http://www.forestry.nv.gov/bmp)

Southern Nevada Arborist Group  
[www.lvsnag.org/](http://www.lvsnag.org/)

## WATER

Southern Nevada Water Authority –  
Water Conservation, Rebates and Drought  
[www.snwa.com](http://www.snwa.com)

Las Vegas Valley Water District  
[www.lvwwd.com](http://www.lvwwd.com)

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee  
[www.lvwash.org](http://www.lvwash.org)

Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
[www.crc.nv.gov](http://www.crc.nv.gov)

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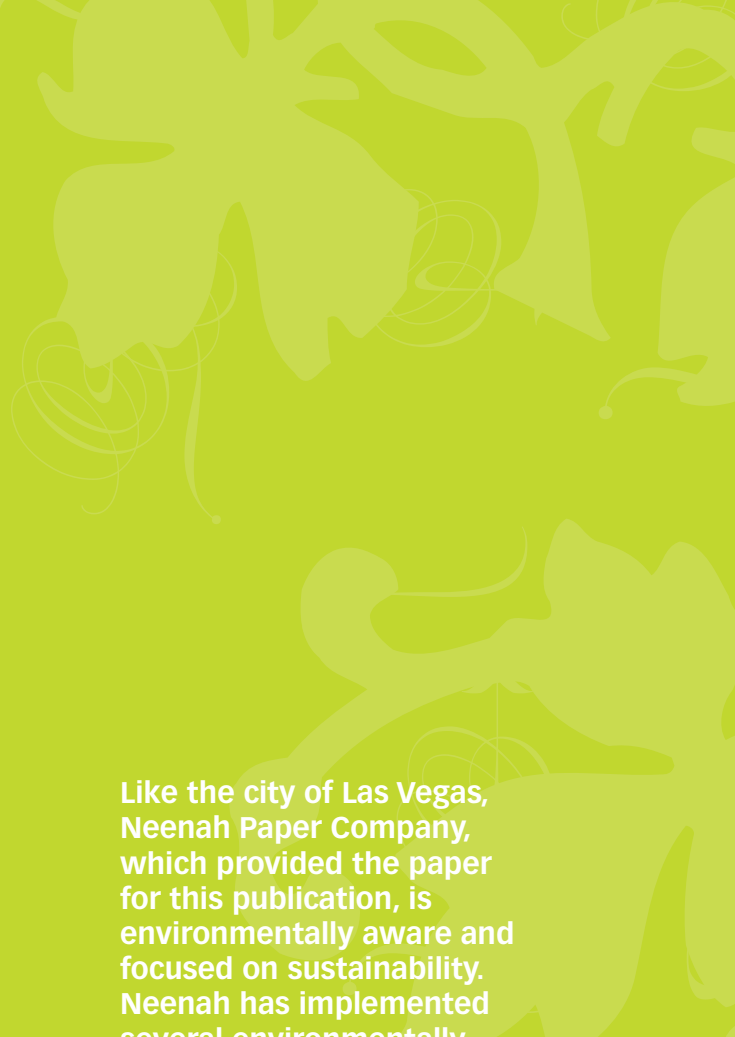
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Desert Marigold,  
native to Nevada



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